ASTON

NEWS

MARCH 2020

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS (useful numbers)

If your club or organisation is not listed here and you would like to be included, then please let me know on 01787 210354 or email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com

Allotments (sjking@btinternet.com)	Stephen King	01787 210932
Assington Books, Village Hall (see post office for times)	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Assington Farmshop	Maxine Gardiner	01787 211610
Assington Post Office, Village Hall	Mon 1.30-3.30,	Wed 9-12
Assington Village Charity, Sec	Nettie Osman	07957 394780
Boxford CEVC Primary School (office@boxford.suffolk.sch.uk)	Head: Mrs J Davies	01787 210332
Brownies, Boxford	Moira Grant	01787 211513
Church, Children's activities	Michelle Bourner	07954 221773
Church - Organist	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
Church - Reader	Dr John Symons	01787 211534
Church - Secretary	Emily Cartlidge	07976724266
Church - Treasurer	Ian Clark	01787 211133
Churchwarden	Roger Britcher	01787 211021
Churchwarden	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
County Councillor (james.finch@suffolk.gov.uk)	James Finch	01473 264993
District Councillor (Assington)	Lee Parker	01787 376073
Doctors surgery – Sudbury	Hardwicke House	01787 310000
Doctors surgery – Bures	Bures	01787 227529
Fleece Jazz, Stoke by Nayland Hotel - www.fleecejazz.org.uk	Stoke by Nayland	01787 211865
Horticultural Society	Bryn Hurren	01787 210854
Leavenheath Cinema	Lesley or Ken	01206 262505/ 01206 263266
Member of Parliament (james.cartlidge.mp@parliament.uk)	James Cartlidge	020 7219 4875
Parish Council	Simon Thorogood	01787 227400
bronwenstacey@btinternet.com	Bronwen Stacey	01787 210354
john@moorsfarm.com	John Symons	01787 211534
rosemarysymonds42@gmail.com	Rose Symonds	01787 229100
helen.wallace12@btinternet.com	Helen Wallace	01787 211162
i.jordan741@btinternet.com	Ian Jordan	
andrewpeterhill@hotmail.com	Andrew Hill	
Parish Council - Clerk, (assingtonpc@yahoo.com)	Jane Hatton	01787 468634
Polstead Films – www.http://polstead.onesuffolk.net/films	Sue Wigglesworth	01787 210029
Pub – The Shoulder of Mutton	Gavin & Aaron	01787 210334
Vicar (steve.morley@btinternet.com)	Steve Morley	01787 227407
Village Hall – Bookings (louisa@moorsfarm.com)	Louisa Symons	01787 211534
Village Hall - Caretaker	Paul Battle	07473 933320
Womens Institute, Boxford (annie-phillips@hotmail.co.uk)	Annie Phillips	01787 211729

The ASSINGTON NEWS

Cover photograph: by Bronwen Stacey

Editor	Bronwen Stacey, 01787 210354, email bronwenstacey@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Bob Cowlin, 01787 229955, bob.cowlin@assingtonmill.com
Distributors	David & Ann Jarrett, Judy Bourner, Bryn Hurren & Lisa Brooks, Noreen Grant, Matthew Green, Ian Jordan, Jacqui Egglestone, Rose Symonds
Portrait photograper	Steve Betts, 01787 827801, imagezone353@gmail.com
Printer	Indigo Ross Design & Print Ltd, Sudbury 01787 880 260 hello@indigoross.co.uk
Auditor	Ian Clark, 01787 211133

KATH LANE

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their best wishes, the dozens of cards and letters have been very much appreciated during this difficult time.

Since we moved into the village in 2005, we both made so many friends, especially with Kath working at the Farm Shop. Everyone was there for Kath during her illness and have supported us as a family since she sadly passed away.

A big thanks to everyone who helped with Kath's funeral, the Church, the Shoulder of Mutton and Jules the florist.

Kathy Lane ~ forever in our hearts and thoughts.

Russ and family

Kath Lane

Kath started working with us when we opened in April 2011 - she was looking for "something different" and I do believe she found that here in the Farm Shop. No two days are ever the same as you never know who will walk through the door and what unusual events each day may bring: from leaking chiller units, one ridiculously hot summer when all the chocolates melted, the missing Xmas goose saga, escaped rheas and pigs running about the car park, lost dogs, a break-in, numerous power cuts, and the generator catching fire – shop life was certainly never dull.

Kath wholeheartedly embraced every different aspect from dealing with customers, placing and overseeing orders, helping some of our elderly clientele with their groceries, helping them to their vehicle and even, on occasion, walking them home.

She really did fit in well, was popular with the customers and ran the shop while we were on holiday. We had many laughs over the years and even though Kath was faced with serious health issues, she always stayed immensely cheerful. Christmas was a special time and I know she loved unpacking the vast amount of seasonal goodies and then arranging the Christmas display – it was a standing joke that I over-ordered every year sometime doubling up on the same item from two suppliers – it sent us into fits of giggles every time as we were surrounded by cases and cases of shortbread biscuits.

We also had an ongoing competition between ourselves to see who could sell the most "reduced items" – this really did become quite competitive as we would leave each other post-it notes listing the items we had sold – this then progressed to text messages and the odd phone call announcing some exciting (in our eyes) sale !!! A customer once said to me "Kath always manages to sell me something out of the reduced basket that I didn't know I needed !" What a laugh that comment caused.

Kind, friendly and helpful are words which have often been used by our customers to describe Kath during her time in the Farm Shop and we would add to that description with the words loyal, trustworthy and hardworking.

We would wholeheartedly like to say that dear Kath was a much loved and valued member of our small team and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.

From
Maxine and Chris
Assington Farm Shop

Chambers plans reduced bus service on No 84 – Use It or Lose It

In the middle of January, Chambers Buses announced on their website a consultation on a major reduction of bus services through Nayland, Stoke by Nayland and Leavenheath and Assington. As result, Cllr James Finch and the Parish Council Chairs of these parishes agreed that their concerns should be urgently shared with Chambers' senior management and James Cartlidge, MP for South Suffolk. Within a few days, all had met. Jeremy Cooper, Chief Executive, explained the plan of keeping the service mainly to the main road – the A134. He said regrettably, a two hourly timetable to these villages was no longer financially viable with the present numbers using the service. Each village shared their concerns - in particular the lack of services before and after the early and late services, the potential danger and practicality of walking to the main road, and in school holiday time no buses at all passing through our villages. The challenge was to find out how those without their own transport could get to Sudbury and Colchester economically for both the residents and the bus company.

Discussions were productive and amendments were offered by Mr Cooper for a **trial period** from 29th March until the end of the July School Term with a view to increase the number of passengers per bus journey:-

- ➢ Two services each day would be run through all the 4 villages during term time **AND** school holidays.
- ➢ Assington would retain a daily service because of the particular distance and lack of safe access on foot to the main road.
- ➢ Nayland and Stoke by Nayland would have a "shopping bus" once per week.
- ➢ Additional Bus stops on the A134 will be added in Leavenheath, and Nayland to the regular two hourly services during the day.

James Finch commented; " By sharing the concerns of all face to face, a greater understanding of each other's point of view was obtained. I am pleased that a compromise solution has been achieved to enable residents of the four villages to get to Colchester and Sudbury at appropriate times. It is now important that all share this revised slimmed down timetable so that our buses are efficiently used - in particular by those that really need them. The old adage now really does hold true for this important trial period, "Use it or Lose it".

James Cartlidge MP added: "I have had a large number of constituents contact me with their concerns about proposed changes to the 84 bus route. Working with Cllr James Finch, Suffolk County Council's transport team and Chambers' buses, we appear to have found a way forward that preserves village stopping services for the time being. Whilst these are more limited than before, given the threat of a complete cessation of such services and the commercial reality faced by the provider, it is welcome that a level of bus connectivity will continue to be available in the most affected villages. However, echoing Cllr Finch, I would emphasise that the new configuration is for a trial period up to the school summer holidays and therefore it really will be a case of villagers using their service or finding we are back at square one without a bus stopping in their villages at all. Of course, I am keenly aware that there is a wider policy challenge here and that other villages in South Suffolk, e.g. Bentley, have lost bus services in recent months. I was therefore pleased to hear in the Government's infrastructure plans announced on Tuesday that extra funding was promised for bus services. I will be keen to work with Suffolk County Council and other stakeholders to see what more can be done to access this funding and to find more sustainable transport solutions for our rural communities".

In conclusion, Chambers have listened to the concerns of the residents, their MP and County Councillor and a revised TRIAL timetable has been provided up until the end of the Summer school term. The group plan to meet again at the end of April to review usage of buses on this route. This trial timetable will be put up by the bus stops and will be widely circulated in the villages. Details will also be found on the Chambers website:- https://www.chambersbus.co.uk/

Please see the Trial Timetable, in operation from 29 March, on the next page.

84 Colchester - Sudbury via Nayland
784 Colchester - Sudbury via A134

Draft timetable from 29th March 2020

Mondays to Saturdays except Bank Holidays

Service No	84	784	84A	784	784	784	784	784	784	84	84	784
	Sch	**NS**	**Th**							**Sch**	**Hol**	
Norman Way Schools										1550		
Colchester, Osborne Street				0930	1034	1134	1234	1334	1434	1605	1635	1735
Colchester, Head Street				0934	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1609	1639	1739
Colchester, North Station Lay-by		0850		0938	1042	1142	1242	1342	1442	1613	1643	1743
Colchester, Turner Road (for Hospital)										1619	1649	
Mile End, Cordelia Drive	0732	0855		0943	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447			1748
Great Horkesley, Half Butt	0735	0857		0945	1049	1149	1249	1349	1449	1625	1655	1750
Nayland Turning		0906		0952	1056	1156	1256	1356	1456			1757
Nayland, Doctors' Surgery	0744		0930							1634	1704	
Stoke-by-Nayland, Village Hall	0750		0936							1640	1710	
Stoke-by-Nayland, Blundens	0753		0939							1642	1712	
Leavenheath, Hare & Hounds (s/b)										1646	1716	
Leavenheath, Elm Tree Lane	0804									1650	1720	
Leavenheath, Hare & Hounds (n/b)	0810	0911		0957	1101	1201	1301	1401	1501			1802
Assington, Shoulder of Mutton	0815			1002						1656	1726	
Newton Green, Church Road	0822	0917	0949	1009	1107	1207	1307	1407	1507	1703	1733	1808
Chilton roundabout		0921	0953	1013	1111	1211	1311	1411	1511	1707	1737	1812
Great Cornard, Rede Way		0923	**HB**	1015	1113	1213	1313	1413	1513	1709	1739	1814
Thomas Gainsborough School (when open)	0830								1520			
Great Cornard, Queensway	0832	0925		1017	1115	1215	1315	1415	1522	1711	1741	1816
Sudbury, Bus Station	0839	0933	1001	1025	1123	1223	1323	1423	1530	1719	1749	1821

Notes

Sch - schooldays only

NS - Not Saturdays

Hol - runs on Mondays to Fridays in school holidays only

HB - calls at Homebase at 0956

Call*

03301 020801

*phone lines are open

Monday - Friday, 09:00 - 16:00

Service No	84	784	784	784	784	84A	784	784	84
						Th			**NS**
Sudbury, Bus Station	0657	0905	1005	1105	1205	1235	1305	1405	1507
Great Cornard, Queensway	0702	0910	1010	1110	1210	**HB**	1310	1410	1512
Thomas Gainsborough School									1520
Newton Green, Church Road	0710	0918	1018	1118	1218	1247	1318	1418	1529
Assington, Shoulder of Mutton	0717				1225				1536
Leavenheath, Hare & Hounds (s/b)	0722	0924	1024	1124	1230		1324	1424	1541
Leavenheath, Elm Tree Lane	0726								1545
Leavenheath, Hare & Hounds (n/b)	0730								1549
Stoke-by-Nayland, Blundens	0736					1257			1554
Stoke-by-Nayland, Village Hall	0738					1300			1556
Nayland, Doctors' Surgery	0744					1306			1602
Nayland Turning		0929	1029	1129	1235		1329	1429	
Great Horkesley, Half Butt	0754	0936	1036	1136	1242		1336	1436	1611
Mile End, Cordelia Drive	0756	0938	1038	1138	1244		1338	1438	1613
Colchester, General Hospital	0801								1617
Colchester, North Station Lay-by	0806	0943	1043	1143	1249		1343	1443	1622
Colchester, High Street	0811	0948	1048	1148	1254		1348	1448	1627
Colchester, Osborne Street	0815	0954	1054	1154	1300		1354	1454	1629
Norman Way Schools (schooldays only)	0825								

Notes

The 1507 runs 9 minutes later as far as Great Cornard during school holidays

NS - Not Saturdays **Th** - Thursdays Only **HB** - calls at Homebase at 1240

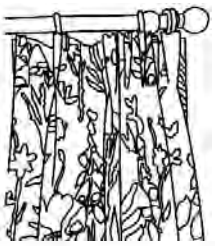
Email

services@hedingham.co.uk

Post

H. C. Chambers & Son Ltd
Unit 6-7 Stephenson Road
Clacton on Sea
Essex
CO15 4XA

Little House Designs



Based at Cootes Cottage, Assington, I specialise in machine embroidery and design. With 40 years experience working in textiles I can help you refresh your home with new curtains, blinds and personalised items including cushions & framed embroidery.

I can visit you in your home to discuss your requirements or you are very welcome to come to see me at the cottage. I can show you examples of my work, fabric books and colour options, talk through different ideas and give you a quote without obligation.

If you have any ideas you would like to discuss, or want some help to create the look you are after, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jacqui Egglestone
01787 211154
07770 520198
jacqui@littlehousedesigns.co.uk
littlehousedesigns.co.uk

Thank you all for the wonderful response and support we have received!

Mums, dads, grandparents, carers and childminders living in and around Assington ... bring your little ones to an accompanied babies and toddlers group in the lovely Village Hall. Held twice a month, although not in school holidays, from 9.30 - 11.00 am, at £3 per family.

Thursday 12th March Thursday 26th March Thursday 23rd April

We have toys and books for your babies and toddlers, a soft space for the babies to relax on and a big space for unstructured play for the older ones. There are healthy snacks for the little ones and a time for stories and songs too.

At the same time we want you to be able to enjoy a good cup of tea or coffee while you chat with friends and meet new people. See you there!

Do contact me, Revd Tricia Box, if are interested or would like to help: 01787 227528 or 07747 124592 triciajbox@gmail.com

ASSINGTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP 2020 dates

Twice a month in the Village Hall 9.30 - 11am for babies and toddlers accompanied by their parents/carers. £3 per family.

January 2 and 16
February 6 and 27
March 12 and 26
April 23
May 14 and 21
June 4 and 18
July 2 and 16
September 3 and 17
October 1 and 15
November 12 and 26
December 10

Contact Revd Tricia Box 01787 227528/07747124592

Wardale Williams
THE OPTICIANS
INDEPENDENT · EXPERIENCED · PROFESSIONAL

Qualified and caring NHS opticians
for you and your family since 1947.
Varifocal specialists.

50 Gainsborough St Sudbury
CO10 2ET 01787 372492
www.wardalewilliams.co.uk

B
Boxstore

The Local Self Storage Company
For all domestic and business needs

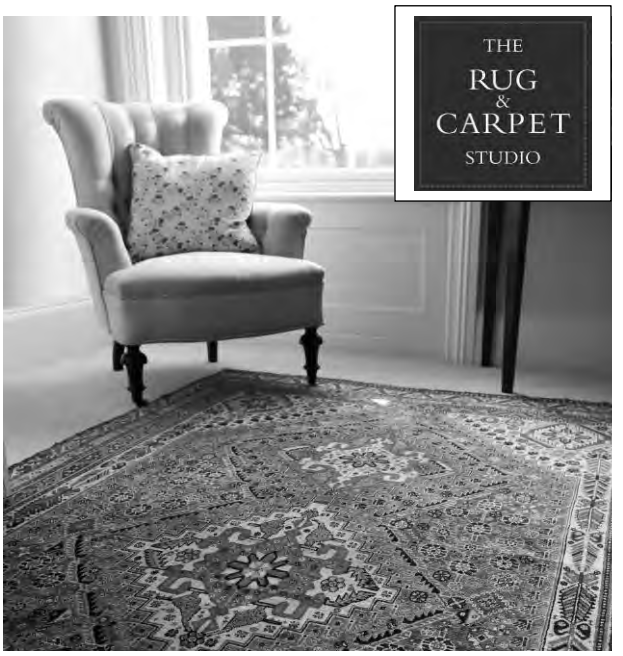
See website for details
www.boxstore.co.uk
tel : 01787 210350

KEMPSON GARDEN SERVICES

All year round, friendly & reliable service
RHS qualified and fully insured
Established 2008

- Garden design and consultation
- Regular lawn care – cutting, strimming & edging
- Hedge cutting & shaping
- Shrub planting & pruning
- Flower border set up & maintenance
- Garden clean-ups & makeovers
- Pressure washing – patios & pathways
- Fencing & repairs
- General handiwork

For complete & professional garden care:
2 Woodfields, The Street, Assington
T: 01787 212394 M: 07733 134789
fred.kempson@gmail.com
www.kempson-gardenservices.co.uk



Specialists in handmade rugs and carpets
Restoration & cleaning workshop
Open Monday to Saturday, 10am – 5.30pm
The Old White Hart, Long Melford, CO10 9HX
01787 882214 www.rugandcarpetstudio.co.uk

R SMITH ELECTRICAL SERVICES

ALL ELECTRICAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

CLEAN, HONEST, RELIABLE

Please call Ryan on

07981 528948

OR

01787 212352

www.rsmithelectrical.co.uk

KJJ SMITH PLUMBING & HEATING

John-Jo Smith

07950 204244
01787 212352

kjjsmithplumbingandheating@gmail.com

No job too small
Full bathrooms undertaken

BOXFORD SCHOOL NEWS

By Callie Bradbury

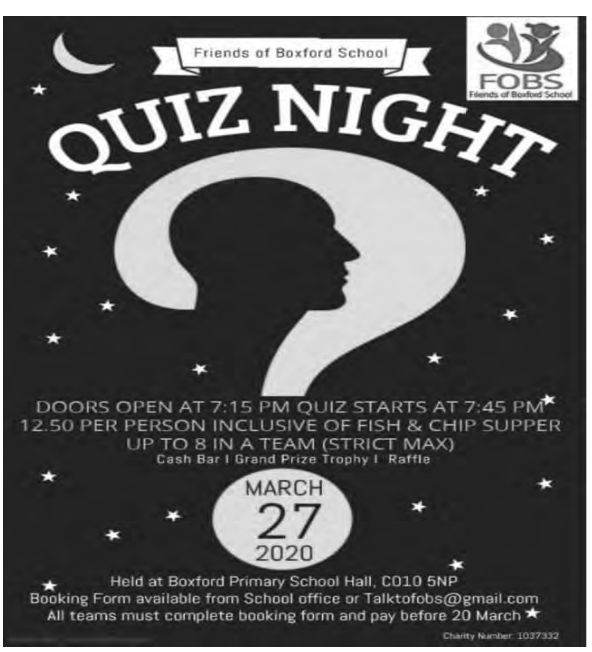
First of all, I am going to tell you about William Lowe (he is a pupil in year 5). He has done an assembly on how to save the environment. William is starting up an eco- friendly club to help our school and the world improve. He asked the school how people around the world could be able to help. Some ideas were:

- Solar Panels
- Go in a submarine or scuba dive and collect litter from the sea
- Turn electrics off when not using them
- Put posters up to encourage other people to pick up litter
- Don't purposely throw litter on the floor put it straight in the bin
- Have electric cars to help stop pollution
-

It was a great assembly and got everybody thinking about how they could change the world. Anybody else who would like to do an assembly on what they would like go and ask Mrs Davies (head teacher) and she will fit you in.
This is something William would like to say to you on how you can change the world:
Your small actions could make a big difference so just picking up a little crisp packet could change everything!!

Secondly, we had a Book Fair a couple of weeks ago and we raised £723 for our school. Mrs Cook (the head of English) and the other teachers are very thankful and appreciate the effort we made. As, we made so much money it will all go towards buying books for the school library and bringing in different authors for the children to explore.

Thirdly, we have a World Book Day coming up on Thursday 5th March so you dress up as a book character. Mrs Cook (head of English) has given some inspirational quotes for us:
" The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go."- Dr. Seuss
" If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."- J.K
FOBS are having a Quiz Night on the 27th of March at Boxford Primary School Hall to raise money for the school. The information has been put below and anyone can enter a team.



NEWS FROM SESAW

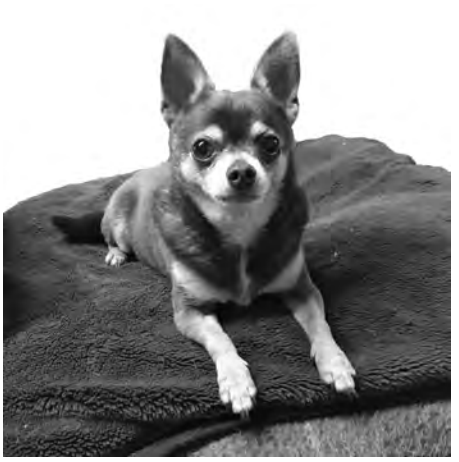
What a scary day that was! I don't know who Ciara is but she caused a dreadful storm in the garden. Mum was nearly blown over when she went out to check the kennels and stables. The dramatic weather may be a distant memory now but our volunteers are still repairing the damage.

It's been a rough year so far. Apart from battling the elements, we lost dear old Peg, one of our Kune Kune pigs. She and her lifelong pal, Bob, arrived some years ago after their owner died. Sadly Peg became ill recently and on the morning of her demise, Bob laid by her side with his head across her. As you may imagine, a few tears were shed that day.

I also suffered a much smaller loss when the Vet removed three of my teeth. It can't be my fault, although every time Mum tried to clean them I bit her just to let her know they were still there. Perhaps I should have let her clean them.

We have lots of bargains ready for **our £1 Sale on 14th March at Newton Green Village Hall**, CO10 0QS. Don't miss it, if only for the delicious homemade cakes!

Which reminds me, it's nearly dinner time! It's so cold, even the cats are staying in and taking over our dog beds. As the rain lashes against the window and the wind howls down the chimney, here ends this under the duvet report from me, **Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.**



Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.
Tel: 01787 210888, www.sesaw.co.uk.
Please check opening hours before visiting

HM Government

NHS

CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours.
To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue and, to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

If you have arrived back from China or specified countries within the last 14 days, follow the returning traveller advice.

Check the list of countries and find out more at **gov.uk/coronavirus**

BRYN HURREN

Specialist in Handmade Traditional Furniture

FURNITURE MAKER WOOD CRAFTSMAN

Est. 1975

Bespoke Kitchens, Joinery and Handmade Furniture Made to Order

Free Quotations

Tel: 01787 210854
Mobile: 07771 508348
www.barnworkshop.co.uk

Sudbury Physiotherapy Centre & Complementary Health

- Musculoskeletal
- Neuro-Physiotherapy
- Sports Massage
- Chiropody
- Podiatry
- Pilates
- Shiatsu
- Clinical Hypnosis
- Paediatric Physiotherapy

Appointments available Monday - Saturday

Tel: 01787 378178
Email: sudburyphysio@hotmail.co.uk
www.sudburyphysio.co.uk
8 Cornard Road · Sudbury · CO10 2XA

ASSINGTON GARAGE

TEL: 01787 211010

Servicing & MOT repairs
Tests arranged

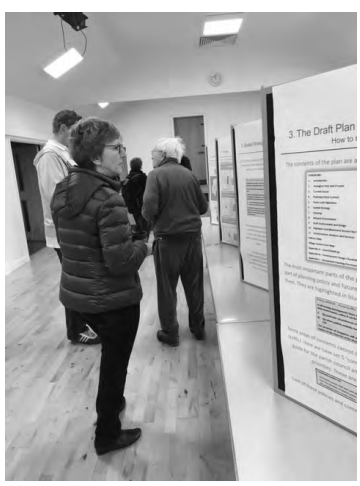
Welding & spraying

Minor dents & scratches usually repaired for less than your insurance excess.

Stockist of wiper blades & bulbs.

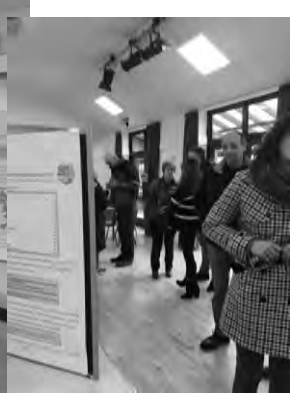
ASSINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION EVENT

It was great to see so many familiar faces as well as new villagers at the Neighbourhood Plan Consultant Event on Saturday 15th February. Over 70 villagers came along to view the displays detailing the work so far and learn more about the proposed policies and community actions within the Plan. After battling the storms to keep the signs up long enough in the village for everyone to be aware of the event, we hope everyone interested was able to come.
If you would like to learn more about Assington's Neighbourhood Plan, you can review the full document on the Parish Council website at: http://assington.onesuffolk.net/assington-neighbourhood-plan/ or read a paper copy at **Assington Country Kitchen** (settle in with a coffee!) or **The Shoulder of Mutton** (settle in with a pint!) or the **village hall foyer** when open for other business.
You can loan a copy from either
Catherine Harrison (07710 899750) or
Ian Jordan (07767 035742) – please phone to arrange collection. Saturday 15th February was the starting point of the statutory six-week consultation period after which time the Plan will be formally submitted to Babergh.



This will be one of the final times you can have your say so if you would like to feedback on the Neighbourhood Plan, go to the Parish Council website and fill in the online survey or pick up a paper feedback form from either Catherine or Ian, phone numbers above.
All feedback must be received before Monday 30th March.

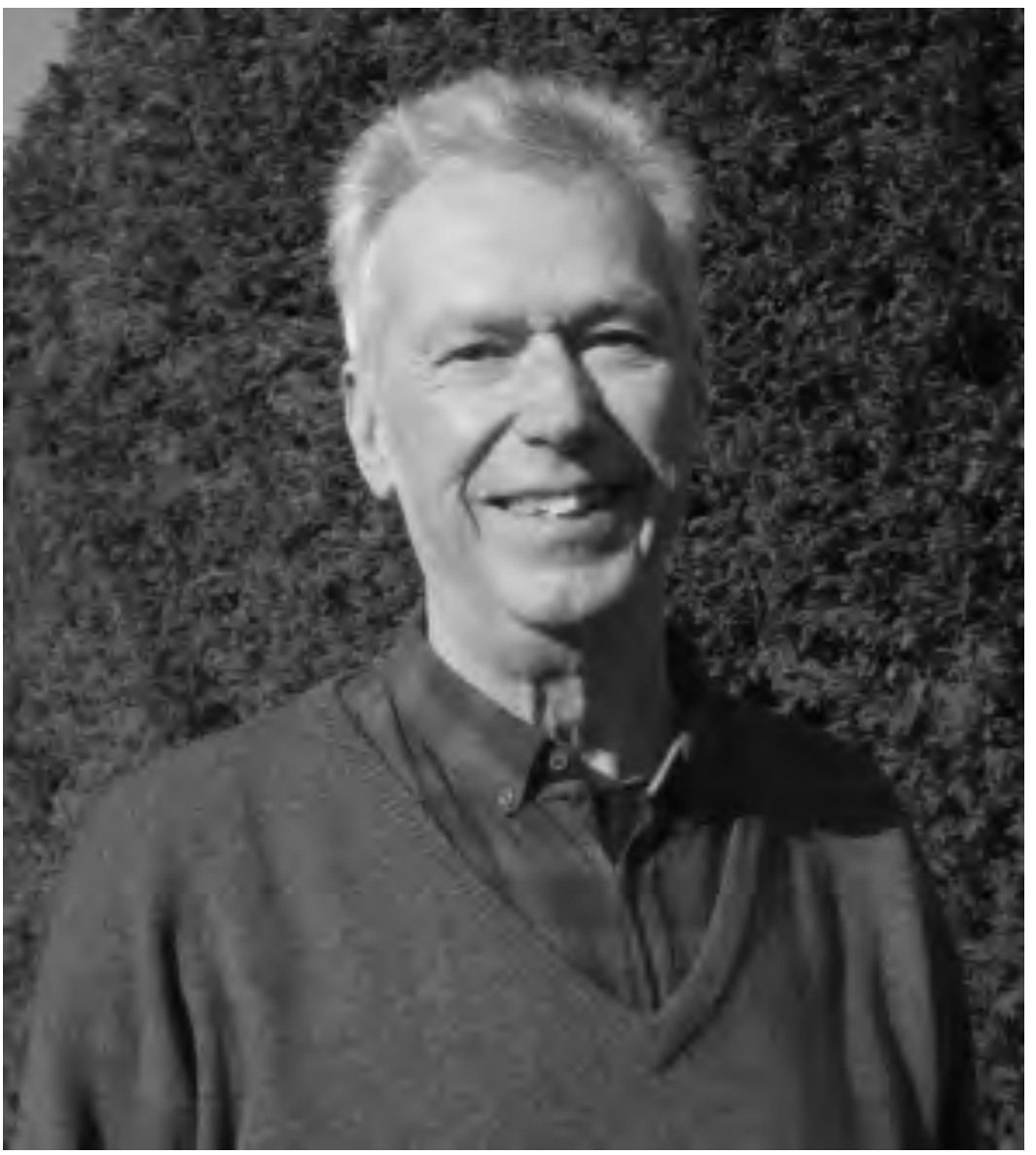
As a spin-off of the Neighbourhood Plan, we are holding quarterly 'Village Nights' in the pub on the following dates in 2020: Wednesday 1st April, Wednesday 3rd June and Wednesday 5th August so come along for a chat and a drink, meet some villagers and support the pub.



PROFILE: STEPHEN KING

Interviewed by Joan Peacock

(with additions by SJK)



Stephen was born in Winchester, Hampshire. His father was a probation officer in London and his mother had started a kindergarten in Winchester to where she was evacuated with her first daughter in 1939. After a second daughter arrived in 1940 Stephen was born in 1944. By then his father was serving in the army but after demobilization the family moved to Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, where they remained for 3 years. He remembers a very happy childhood even though, for reasons of his mother's poor health, he and his sisters were cared for, in the main, by a nanny or Au Pair. One such was Claretta, who stayed for 2 years and now, aged 94, lives in her native Switzerland, where Stephen visits her from time to time. For a short while he and his sisters stayed with their grandparents in London and attended a local school while their parents searched for a house.

In 1952 the family moved to Harpenden, Hertfordshire. He attended Aldwickbury, a local Prep School, where he began piano lessons. He also sang, acted, and took part in The Mikado while at this school. Both Stephen's mother and grandmother were musical and his own interest in singing was to continue all through his schooldays. Stephen's failure to pass the 11 plus exam proved to be a blessing in disguise since music formed a large part of the curriculum at his next school, the co-ed St George's, Harpenden, where the inspiring music teacher had previously been choirmaster and organist at Ely Cathedral. Regular attendance at Chapel was required and Stephen sang in the school choir as a treble then tenor, sometimes solo. The high quality of the singing at the school meant that some pupils went on to become professionals.

At 18 he was expelled from St George's on his last day for muffling the school bell on the chapel roof. By his own admission "not academic" and realising that perhaps maths, woodwork and zoology, which he enjoyed, would not be terribly useful subjects on which to base a career, he had no firm idea of what he wanted to do next. However, his maternal grandfather, who was always an important influence in his life, had served in the 16th/5th Lancers in WW1 and written a diary of his experiences. Having failed at school two attempts to enter The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst (RMAS) Stephen stacked shelves in the local International Stores and delivered grocery orders in the Big Freeze of winter 1962 before enlisting at St Albans Recruiting Office in the 3rd East Anglian Regiment (Beds, Herts and Essex) and undergoing basic training at Blenheim Camp in Bury St Edmunds. For the first time in his life he encountered people who had difficulty reading and writing so helped his fellow recruits to read letters from their girlfriends and write replies. Despite the rigours of cold weather assault courses and digging slit trenches in Stanford Training Area near Thetford he managed to sing Bach's St Matthew Passion in the Cathedral. During training he applied for a third time to the Regular Commissions Board and was given the choice to attend one year at Mons Officer Cadet School or two years at RMAS. He chose the latter and flourished, rising to Senior Under Officer before getting his commission into the Royal Hampshire Regiment. He served three years in Hong Kong, Singapore, Borneo (on active service), Germany, Cyprus and the UK as a Platoon Commander and eventually Battalion Intelligence Officer. In 1968, following army cuts, soldiers were permitted to resign without penalty and he left.

A change of direction was now necessary and Stephen answered an advertisement in The Times for an assistant bursar at the Overseas School of London in Swiss Cottage. He accompanied pupils on trips abroad, including a whistle-stop European week, when he was entrusted with a Greek typewriter to give to the Director's sister in San Marino. Unfortunately, the machine was left in a hotel lobby in Rome

and Stephen was relieved of his duties after one year. He took a job as House Father at a co-ed Jewish boarding school in Connecticut USA, where he taught World Geography during school hours and looked after the students' welfare after school. At the end of a year, and after turning down the offer of the position of Headteacher, he was sacked for allowing pupils to receive deliveries of take-away pizzas.

At this stage Stephen decided to teach full time and contacted A S Neill, head of Summerhill School (the first 'free school' that at times received rather negative press comments because of its ethos of allowing children to opt out of exams and pursue their own interests) and Neill suggested that he become a qualified teacher. He attended Culham College in Abingdon and in October 1971, during his 2nd year there, Stephen met Belinda, his wife-to-be, who was pursuing an art course, and their first date was to visit the House of Commons to hear the Common Market debates. They married the following year.

They applied together to work in Suffolk. Stephen was employed at All Saints Middle School in Sudbury, but they lived in Woolpit as Belinda worked at Beyton Middle School. In 1973 they moved to Assington, to the School House (now The Old School House) but were evicted when the County Council, planning to close the school, refused to renew the lease. Following a petition from villagers, in 1980 they were permitted to move to a house in Vicary Estate, where they still live. In spite of vigorous opposition from the village, the school was eventually closed in 1984.

Stephen taught at All Saints Middle School for 30 years, teaching French and Maths as Head of both, and as Home/ School Co-ordinator. Stephen and Belinda's first child, Charlotte, was born in 1974 and their son Francis arrived in 1976. Belinda, pursuing her own career as an artist and teacher, held her first exhibition in 1981 in London. In 1986 Stephen took a two year part-time course at Homerton College, Cambridge which lead to an Advanced Diploma in Education and eventually, after Stephen had retired, in 2002, it was decided that he would run the home to enable her to devote more time to her own work. He has taken to his stay-at-home rôle with enthusiasm – he loves cooking - and Belinda is now a very successful artist.

Over the years, Stephen has had various health problems, one of which was not diagnosed until he had been suffering abdominal pain for 4 years. Eventually in 1979 he was discovered to have Coeliac Disease and once this was understood and an appropriate diet followed, life improved immensely.

Retirement having given him more time to pursue his particular interests, he took up singing again. He joined the Hadleigh Choral Society and their smaller offshoot Serendipity, sang with an American choir in Salzburg and joined Millwheel, a madrigal group based at Assington Mill. Another of his enthusiasms is for railways, encouraged by his father who had a Gauge 1 clockwork train set in the garden, and while living in Harpenden Stephen joined the Brambleton model railway club which still survives, and he worked on the Ffestiniog Railway as a volunteer.

He served on Assington Parish Council for 8 years as Vice-Chair looking at planning applications, and Footpaths Warden from 2005-2015. He is Chair of the Allotments Association and the Village Charity, which is responsible for the Village Hall, the Playing Field, and, now, the new Children's Play Area.

Above all, his and Belinda's greatest enjoyment comes from their family - Charlotte who lives in Belfast, Francis in Lewes, and their 4 delightful grandchildren. And after 47 years they are still very happy to be living in Assington.

****

ASSINGTON RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

Bill Milner and Bob Cowlin

2016 TOTAL 599.5
2017 TOTAL 571
2018 TOTAL 559
2019 TOTAL 597

****

2018	***mm***	***max***	***min***
JAN	60.5	11^{0}C	-3^{0}C
FEB	41	9^{0}C	-8^{0}C
MAR	74	14^{0}C	-5^{0}C
APR	49.5	26.5^{0}C	+1^{0}C
MAY	38.5	27^{0}C	+0.5^{0}C
JUN	1.5	31^{0}C	+5^{0}C
JULY	19.5	36^{0}C	+10^{0}C
AUG	83	35^{0}C	+6^{0}C
SEP	29	25^{0}C	-0.5^{0}C
OCT	30.5	23^{0}C	-2^{0}C
NOV	75	13^{0}C	-4^{0}C
DEC	57	13^0	-5^{0}C

****

2019	***mm***	***max***	***min***
JAN	23.5	9^{0}C	-8^{0}C
FEB	19.5	16^{0}C	-5^{0}C
MAR	44	19^{0}C	-3^{0}C
APR	18.5	24^{0}C	-3^{0}C
MAY	54	26^{0}C	+1^{0}C
JUNE	94.5	29^{0}C	5^{0}C
JULY	36.5	34.5^{0}C	6.5^{0}C
AUG	31.5	31^{0}C	7^{0}C
SEP	37.5	24^{0}C	2^{0}C
OCT	90	18 ^{0}C	-2^{0}C
NOV	69.5	12 ^{0}C	-5^{0}C
DEC	78	10 ^{0}C	-5^{0}C

****

2020	***mm***	***max***	***min***
JAN	33.5	10 ^{0}C	-5^{0}C

Assington Horticultural Show 2020.

This year's show will take place on **Sunday 23rd August** with all the usual classes and categories, though we may make some minor improvements.
Although the growing season may seem rather distant in the wake of Ciara and Dennis passing through, the evening light is increasing. Hopefully most of the winter is behind us now and green shoots are appearing, whether they are the ones we would like to see is a matter for conjecture but hopefully some of them will be welcomed.

It is a good time to be chitting early potatoes now for planting in late March and getting an early crop, frost permitting. Also, spring onion seed and bulbs can be planted and sown now along with early brassicas and beans. We may have some spare allotment space in the spring so if anyone is interested please pop by and see what is available. Please feel free to ask any plot holder you see for any advice that you may need. Hopefully we will have lots of nice exhibits at this year's show as it is becoming more important than ever as prices rise in the shops and the quality and chemical content are not always what we would wish for.

I wish a happy and successful growing season to you all.
Bryn at No 10.

EXCERPTS FROM A PRIVATE AUTOBIOGRAPHY of MAJOR HENRY O TOMKINS (1894 - ?1980) of Assington

and The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry…..*continued*

From Bob Cowlin

Henry lived in the village as a child between about 1895 and 1908, when he joined the army at the age of 14.

Excerpts from his accounts began in the February edition and will continue to be printed over future months:

PART TWO

I was five years old when the South African (Boer) war broke out in 1899 and I remember many of the young men, especially the postman, leaving to join the forces. The postman later returned minus his left arm. Dad naturally threw himself into the war effort and was most prominent in organising various events to raise money. The leading lights in the village were the Squire, Sir William Brampton Gurdon, the Vicar, the Rev M Stephenson, the school Headmaster, Mr Nicholson, the Bell family, Fred and Harry Dyer, farmers at Park Farm and Dorking Tye, Fred Palmer, landlord of the Shoulder of Mutton, John Wheal, head gamekeeper to the Squire, Mr Mason of the Shop and of course, Dad. They did very good work in organising Concerts in the school, Smoking Concerts in the Pub, outdoor events such as cricket and quoits matches, clay pigeon shooting etc, etc. They extracted quite a lot of money from the pockets of farm labourers who made up most of the population of the village and those surrounding it who walked miles to attend the shows. The quality of the Artistes varied but I shall never forget one old boy who only knew one song. He would come up with it on all occasions and he received quite a lot of applause. The song was one from Gilbert and Sullivan and I can hear him now singing with great gusto:

'For every man who is born aloive
Is either a little Liberal or else a Conservitoive'

I remember the torchlight procession they organised to celebrate the Relief of Mafeking in 1900. Everyone was in it and there were no lookers on. I was a sailor and one of 'Long Tom', a big gun made with rolls of chicken wire covered with brown paper. A gun of that name was actually made in Mafeking during the siege and shells were fired at the Boers. Our gun was mounted on the chassis of a perambulator which we pulled in true naval style by drag ropes. Dad was the Parade Marshal, mounted on a horse, complete with helmet, plume and uniform. He looked super but once when he was dismounted he bent down to adjust one of his spurs, the horse clamped his teeth on Dad's backside. I saw it happen and it made my day. I think Dad walked after that.

It was about 1901 that Dad got rather dissatisfied with our education at the village school and decided that we, that is Jack, Arthur and I should attend a more progressive school. In Sudbury there was a Grammar School and two Elementary Schools, one of which was the most favoured in Mill Road because it had separate schools for boys and girls. Of course, with his tribe, Dad could not afford the Grammar School fees. In order to get us the seven miles to school and back, Dad bought another pony and trap which Jack was made responsible for and used to drive us. He used to make a bit of money on the side by bringing various purchases for people and doing a sort of carriers business.

Anyway before I go any further, I have noticed I have not given the name of the G & S vocalist. He was old 'Dardy' Bell. How he got that name I do not know but he was a very friendly soul and we all called him 'Dardy'. As these were the days before Jazz, pop or cinemas, we had to find our own enjoyment, which we did to the full. Football had not taken the world by storm and we hardly knew the rules of the game. Cricket was better known and we played that. The bully boys of the village were Billy Baker, Ronnie Wheal and Jack. The girls were led by Gertrude (known as Tatta) Bell, a young sister of Dardy, Muriel Wheel and May Balmer.

Hill Farm as it is today.

In the evenings before dusk we played childish games such as hide and seek, boys against girls. My favourite hidey hole was the 'Dead Cart'. That was the hand drawn bier which was kept in a shed but never locked. We would go down the 'Garden Fields' to 'Old Mother Shoe' – make bows and arrows and fight battles. The bows were made from ash and the arrows from reeds. Although we fired at each other and got hit, they did not hurt. 'Old Mother Shoe' was an old gnarled oak tree which grew in a long narrow meadow owned by Mr Harry Dyer of Hill Farm. A brook ran through this and the place was considered wonderful for us.

… It is thought that part of an anecdote is missing here, but a story of youthful antics (possibly in an orchard) continues …

Arthur volunteered to climb and we ducked down in the ditch and waited. Suddenly we heard a voice saying 'Wot are yew adoin up that tree bor?' It was Mr Smith, Johnny's father. Arthur replied 'Its all right Mr Smith. I am not picking anything. I am just seeing if they are ripe.' 'Ho ' said Mr Smith, 'when they are ripe, they falls and then you can have some but come you down now bor and I'll give yew one – across the arse with my stick'. We heard Arthur making his way down the tree when there was a yelp. Jesse Smith had got a good crack in and Arthur was through the hedge like a rabbit up its burrow with the parting remark by Mr Smith 'And if I catches yew up there again, you'll get two bor'.

Although he was then about twelve years old, I can remember Jack coming home crying one day and when Dad asked him what it was all about he said 'Billy Baker and Ronnie Wheal have been hitting me.' Dad asked 'Didn't you hit them back?' and Jack shook his head. 'Right' said the old man, 'come with me' and we all followed him out, Jack full of expectation that Dad was going to take up the cudgels on his behalf. They came across Billy and Ronnie in the Street and Dad asked whether they had been hitting Jack. They both said yes because he wouldn't do what they wanted him to do. 'Right' said Dad, 'Billy take off your coat and Jack take yours off. Now have a go at each other on equal terms and Ronnie don't you go away because its your turn next' We stood around to jeer or cheer at what was the making of a good scrap. Somehow or other, Jack landed a snorter on Billy's nose and the blood flowed freely. Billy decided he had had enough and then it came to Ronnie's turn and soon they both had bloody noses. Dad stopped the fight, gave them threepence each, and told them not to be so silly again, warning Jack to fight his own battles in the future. It taught Jack a lesson and indeed all of us – not to indulge in bullying but if we were, to stand up for ourselves. ☆☆☆

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON

(Please see the article on Henry Tomkins, which mentions Sir Brampton Gurdon).

Gurdon was the youngest son of Brampton Gurdon (MP for West Norfolk) of Letton, Norfolk and his wife Henrietta Susanna, daughter of the 1st Baron Colborne.[2] He was educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1863 with a BA degree.

Career

Gurdon entered the Treasury as a clerk in 1863, and became private secretary to William Ewart Gladstone when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1865 to 1866 and when Prime Minister from 1868 to 1874.

Parliament

At the 1885 general election Gurdon stood unsuccessfully in South West Norfolk. He was unsuccessful again at Rotherhithe in 1886 and in Colchester at a by-election in 1888.
He finally entered Parliament on his fourth attempt, when he was elected at a by-election in March 1899 as the Member of Parliament (MP) for North Norfolk.[7]
He held the seat for 11 years, until he stood down at the January 1910 general election. He died in May of that year.
He was also a Justice of the Peace (JP) for Suffolk, and a member of East Suffolk County Council.He was sworn as a Privy Counsellor in July 1907, and became Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk in October 1907. *

Personal life

In 1888 he married Lady Eveline Camilla Wallop, daughter of the 5th Earl of Portsmouth. She died in 1894. There is a memorial to them both in the church of St Edmund in Assington, Suffolk.

In a copy of The Assington Parish Magazine, (Price one penny), dated September 1907, is the following briefing article on the front inside page:

*"It was with unfeigned pleasure and pride that we read in the London papers of August 21st that His Majesty the King (*Edward VII) *had been pleased to appoint Sir Brampton Gurdon Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk in succession to the late Marquis of Bristol. This is the highest local honour that Sir Brampton could receive, and we heartily congratulate him on being placed in this exalted position. We earnestly hope that he may long live to enjoy his honours and to discharge the responsible duties of this high office.We feel sure that no better man could have been found for the position, or one whose influence would be more invariably for good."*

Nick Peasland

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

2 Hall Cottages, Assington Park, Assington, Sudbury, Suffolk. CO10 5LQ
Tel: 01787 211567 Fax: 01787 211898 Email: nickpeasland@madasafish.com

Creative Design Solutions for all types of Building & Development Projects

Residential including Bespoke New Build Designs, Barn Conversions, Extensions, Alterations, Refurbishment

Listed Building Specialists

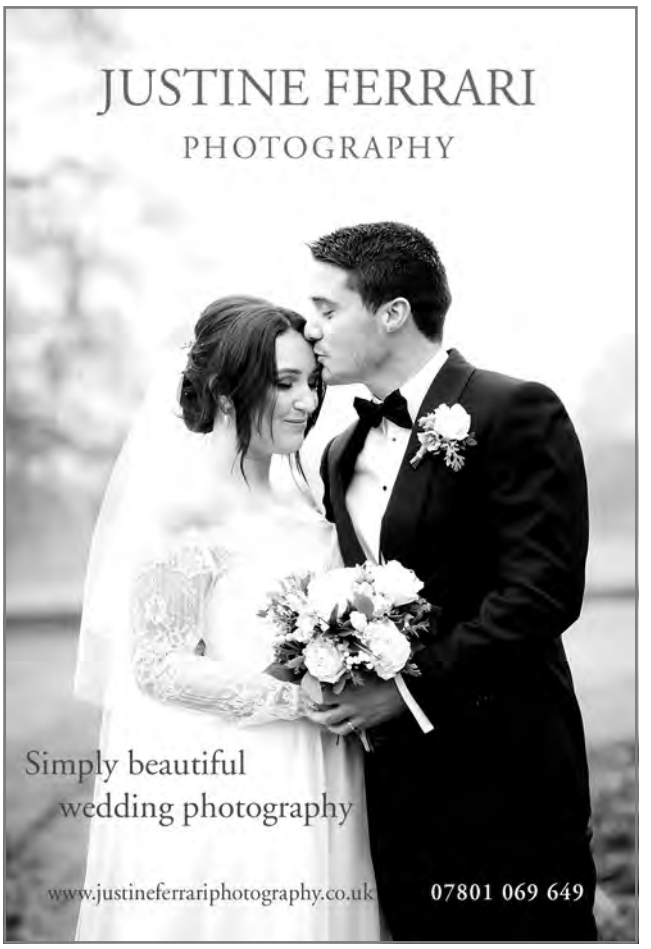
Industrial, Office & Commercial Projects Undertaken

Agricultural Buildings and Stables

A Full Service available from Feasibility Studies, Sketch Design, Detail Design, Planning and Building Regulation Applications for Council Approval, with full service through to completion of build when required.

JUSTINE FERRARI

PHOTOGRAPHY



Simply beautiful wedding photography

www.justineferrariphotography.co.uk 07801 069 649

5 Star Finesse

CAR VALET & DETAIL

Fully mobile, high quality valeting and detailing service
Prices and packages to suit all needs
Please call Joe or Beau on 01206 984053 for details

Happy Sounds COMMUNITY CHOIR

A friendly group for adults singing pop, rock and more

Mondays - 10am
Stevenson Centre, Great Cornard

Second Saturday of the month - 11am
Langham Singers -
Langham Community Centre

Thursdays - 6pm
Assington Village Hall

No experience necessary, no audition required - just turn up and have fun!

Happy Sounds

for more info go to www.happysounds.co.uk, or visit HappySounds Music on Facebook

ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The main matters of interest discussed during the PC Meeting of 27 January 2020

Public Forum

CCllr Finch advised that he had attended the meeting this morning with Mr Jeremy Cooper, Chief Executive of Go Ahead regarding the bus companies proposed to withdrawal all buses stopping in Assington with the exception of the school buses. Cllr Symonds, Cllr Jordan, BDC Transport Manager and representatives from Leavenheath, Nayland and Stoke By Nayland also attended the meeting where it was made clear that the bus company could no longer sustain the current service with fall in passenger numbers resulting in the buses running at a financial loss. Mr Cooper agreed to look at other solutions which would be mutually acceptable to all parties. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr Cooper via Cllr Finch.

A resident raised the condition of the verges in Barracks Road. Cllr Finch has written to Anglian Water advising them that they need to refurbish the verges.

DCllr Parker advised that the requested site visit was to take place on Wednesday and this is for members to be able to gain context and will ask questions of the Parish Councillor attending. There is a public exhibition in Sudbury Town Hall taking place on the 29th and 30th January showing the Sudbury plan of what is happening in Sudbury.

A resident informed the council that the hedge from the allotment to the conservation area needs to be cut back and it was agreed to discuss this in item 11. They also mentioned their concern about the water in Assington Brook on the north side of Barracks Road and that it needs to be checked for pollution.

The public meeting was closed.

Neighbourhood Plan

The draft plan was circulated and discussed. Cllr Wallace advised that it is a pre submission plan and once authorised by the parish council it can then go to BDC. The process is then to have a 6 week consultation with residents to view it on Saturday 15th February. The Councillors fully agreed that the plan should go to BDC for their consultation.

20/020 Routine Correspondence

a. An email had been received from Assington Village Charity regarding the playground and annual inspection cost. The Councillors fully agreed that the parish council would pay the annual inspection cost of £80 plus VAT in future years.

b. Following Cllr Hills email to residents regarding the Befriending Scheme, he had not received a response.

c. Letter from Arthur Charvonia BDC regarding Community Governance Reviews was noted.

d. An email had been received from a resident regarding the signs for The Thicks. The signs had been delayed over Christmas but were now ready and the Clerk and Cllr Symonds were meeting with the carpenter that week to agreed how they were to be put up. As agreed Cllr Symonds had purchased additional signs to request “dogs are kept on leads” and “clean up after your dog”. Commercial dog walkers who use The Thicks had been spoken to about the incident which had occurred but they were unaware of any of their dogs being out of control. Following a number of complaints about the numbers of dogs being walked by one individual, it was agreed that a letter will be handed in future to commercial dog walkers advising them to keep their dogs on leads.

Clerk’s Report

a. Cllr Thorogood advised that he had had a meeting with CCllr James Finch and Cliff James from the Suffolk Education Department who pay for the children in care at Ryes College and will be investigating the discipline of the children. Cllr Thorogood had not received any response following the meeting but if the incidents regarding the children being in the road continues then it is a matter for OFSTED.

b. Cllr Hill confirmed that he had not received a response from Paul Gant SCC Highways following the meeting on the 3rd December and it was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up.

Finance

a. All cheques signed and due for signing were authorised by the councillors.

b. The Councillors reviewed the expenditure budget set, as well as the earmarked and general reserves (appendix C) and resolved to set a Precept of £10,000.00.

Licensed Path, Footpaths and Assets

a. The Councillors resolved to award the 2020 grass cutting to David Gotts for the footpaths at £60 per cut (6 cuts per year) £360 and for the allotment and conservation areas at £45 per cut (3 cuts per year) £135.

b. The Councillors agreed that the cost of the additional work to cut the hedge and bank in front of 3 and 4 Woodfield of £175 was excessive and an alternative will be found.

c. The Councillors agreed that a quote would be requested from David Gotts for cutting back the hedge between the allotments and conservation area.

d. There were no issues raised regarding assets.

Jubilee Oak

The Councillors agreed that following Cllr Symonds investigating the options for a tree guard for the oak, she will obtain a quote from the carpenter she is meeting this week. The plaque will be discussed at the next meeting.

Signs for the Thicks and Notice Board

The Councillors noted that the Clerk and Cllr Symonds were meeting with the carpenter this week to see if additional posts were required for the signs agreed the cost of the repair to the notice board.

Community Facebook Group

Cllr Hill advised that there was interest from residents in the village to set up a community facebook group and councillors agreed.

Question to the Chair

Cllr Wallace advised that the grant obtained from Groundwork for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, if not fully spent by the end of the financial year will be returned. The group could apply again but hopefully all the major expenses would have been incurred in this financial year. The clerk confirmed that there was money allocated to the costs of the neighbourhood plan in the 20/21 budget.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 23rd March 2020 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 10pm

SHOULDER
OF MUTTON

Gavin, Aaron & the Muttoneers warmly welcome you to the Shoulder of Mutton...

Our bar opening hours are Monday 3pm – late, closed on Tuesday and then 12noon – late from Wednesday to Sunday. All our events can be found on The Shoulder of Mutton, Assington facebook page or visit us to find out more...

Our restaurant is open Wednesday to Saturday from 12noon – 3pm and we then reopen for our evening service from 6pm – 9pm; with many midweek specials to choose from. We serve Sunday Lunch (also on a Bank Holiday Monday) from 12noon – 4pm (pre-booking is advised)

Not forgetting, Fish & Chips Takeaway Fridays...

We are available to cater for all private events, simply contact us on 01787 210334

Or visit us at The Shoulder of Mutton, The Street, Assington, Sudbury, CO10 5LJ

Little Gems Interiors

NEW OWNERSHIP

at The Barn, Assington

- Home Accessories
- Soft Furnishings
- Furniture & Lighting
- Gifts & Cards
- Boutique Fashion
- Annie Sloan Chalk Paint Stockist
- Workshops

ANNIE SLOAN STOCKIST

www.littlegemsinteriors.co.uk
01787 210951

ADVERTS

Do you have a business or activity which you would like to advertise in the Assington News?
We currently have a few spaces available which we would like to fill.
Our rates per annum are:

£20 for an 1/8 size page advert
£35 for a 1/4 size page
£60 for a 1/2 size page

Please contact Bob Cowlin on 01787 229955
or
Bronwen Stacey on 01787 210354
if you would like further information.

LATER CIRCULATION OF THE APRIL EDITION

PLEASE NOTE:

The April Edition of the Assington News will be despatched a little later than usual, owing to our holidays.

OUR THANKS TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM

In conjunction with a fair number of Assington residents, we attended the Consultation of the Village Neighbourhood Plan on
15 February.
May I just say, on behalf of "the village", a huge expression of gratitude to all the stalwart members of the NP Team, who have dedicated themselves to producing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you so much to:
Nigel Finch
Catherine Harrison
Andrew Hill *Treasurer (PC)*
Ian Jordan *(PC)*
Stephen Lustig *Secretary*
Nick Miller
Helen Wallace *Chair (PC)*

who have all devoted such a lot of their time and effort to produce this important document so full of description, detail and thoughtful proposals for the longer-term outlook of the village locality. In all sincerity, a very well done to all concerned.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OFFICIAL OPENING: Saturday 7 March at 10am

All residents and especially those people who contributed to the Playground Fund are invited to attend the Official Opening of the Children's Playground at 10 am. on Saturday 7th March 2020.
The Press have been invited for a photocall.

RICHARDSON LANDSCAPES

richardsonlandscapes.co.uk
07742 696766

Undertaking all areas of domestic and commercial landscaping, including:

- Patios
- Driveways
- Brick walls and steps
- Fencing and gates
- Hedge planting
- Grass seeding and turfing

See our website for examples of our work.

Call Mark for a quote!

LEAVENHEATH VILLAGE HALL CINEMA

Downton Abbey (PG)

SATURDAY 7 MARCH

Film starts 7.30pm
with 20 minute interval
£3.50 per adult

Reserve your seat online at
www.leavenheath.org.uk
Tel Lesley on 01206 262505
or Ken on 01206 263266

Refreshments available before the film starts and during the interval.

Proceeds towards the LVH Capital Project Fund

A K SMITH

PLASTERING

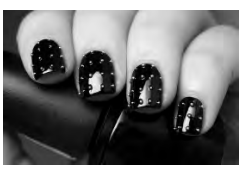
Established 1986

Ceilings, Walls, Floors
Lime Plastering Undertaken

For References see Website
www.aksmithplastering.co.uk

Keith:
Assington 212352/07808 027 116

Nails by Grace



I'm Grace Crimmin, a fully qualified Beauty Therapist offering quality treatment services.

My treatments include, Manicures, Pedicures, Body Massage, Facials and Waxing. Please take a look at my Facebook page Nails by Grace for all the treatments and prices.

I work at The Hair Gallery in Sudbury for nail appointments and facial waxing. **I have a treatment room** at my home in Newton which is where I offer all the treatments.

To book an appointment call **07484 648932** or send an email to **nailsbygrace@btinternet.com**

I look forward to hearing from you.

PARISH CHURCH NEWS

Letter from the Revd Steve Morley, Vicar Bures with Assington and Little Cornard

Dear Friends

Last night I was kept awake, not for the first time in recent weeks, by the sound of the whistling wind and heavy rain. As I write this, Storm Dennis is forecast to bring more wet and windy weather for the coming weekend. Every day there seems to be a news story about changing patterns of weather across the world and extreme weather events. Not so long ago it was the wildfires in Australia; closer to home it's flooding rivers in the North of England. Everyone seems much more aware of the effects of climate change, but in the face of these events it's sometimes difficult to imagine what difference we can make as individuals to combat these changes.

With that backdrop, this Lent the Church of England is encouraging everyone in our churches and communities to engage positively and actively with environmental issues. So in the church this month, you'll find copies available of a booklet called "Live Lent – Care for God's Creation." This offers a short daily bible reading, a reflection and a practical action for each of the 40 days of Lent.

The Diocese has also issued an Environmental Lent Challenge booklet which offers a fun way of encouraging us all to think about the environment and what we each might do to make a small contribution to its protection. You'll find some copies of this booklet in the church, too. Some of the daily challenges include:

- Turning the heating thermostat down by a degree
- Using re-useable food covers instead of cling film
- Swapping single-use plastic shower gel bottles for a bar of soap.

Lent has traditionally been a time when we have been encouraged to give something up as a way of taking stock of our lives and re-assessing what is important to us. Maybe this year Lent could instead be a time when we *take something on* rather than give something up. 'Taking something on' might be as simple as resolving to make a lifestyle change or two, no matter how small, as a personal contribution to preserving our environment and God's good creation. Mother Theresa of Calcutta once said, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

And the bonus is, because you're taking something on rather than giving something up…you can keep on eating chocolate this Lent – provided it's Fairtrade, of course!

With very best wishes
Steve.

LENT BIBLE STUDY

In conjunction with Little Cornard we will be running a bible study group through Lent. We will be meeting on Thursday evenings. If interested please contact

John Symons (01787 211534) or Jeremy Apter(01787 373439).

Schedule of services at Assington Church

1 March 10.30 *Benefice Communion at* **Bures**

8 March 10.30 Holy Communion

15 March 10.30 Morning Worship

22 March 10.30 Family Communion

29 March 10.30 Benefice Communion ***at Lt Cornard***

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St John, Sudbury

(on The Croft off Gregory Street).

Parish Priest: Father Peter Brett,
Tel: 01787 372703
Services: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9.15am, Tuesday 9.30am, Thursday 9.30am,
Confession: Saturday 10.30am and on request.

Bures Baptist Church

High Street, Bures, CO8 5JG
10.30am every Sunday
Youth Club on most Fridays during term time

Sudbury Quaker Meeting

Friars Street, Sudbury, 01787 371303
Meetings: 10.30 – 11.30 on Sundays
Park at the Quay Theatre or the Leisure Centre

Vicar:	Rev Steve Morley	227407
Reader:	Dr John Symons	211534
Associate Priest	Rev Simon White	07572 418555
Organist:	Bronwen Stacey	210354
Sec:	Emily Cartlidge	07976 724266
Treasurer:	Ian Clark	211133
Churchwardens:	Roger Britcher	211021
	Bronwen Stacey	210354

GRAYHAM HOGGER

Free local delivery

(Baileys, Allen & Page, Dobson & Horrell, Saracen, Naf)

HORSE/ANIMAL FEED & BEDDING

HAY, HAYLAGE & STRAW

MUSHROOM COMPOST

SHAVINGS & HORSE-FEED

(Large and small bales)

GRAYHAM HOGGER

TEL: 01787 210074 or 07860 536899

DANIEL ECUYER THATCHERS

MASTER THATCHER

Long straw & water reed

(Free quotes for thatch owners)

Briars, Dyers Lane, Assington

01787 210252 or 07956 585133

ecuyerthatchers@gmail.com

ASSINGTON COUNTRY KITCHEN

Prop. Annie Reidy – Malcolm Long

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Mon/Sat – 9-4.30; Sun 10-4

Bookings: 01787 210242

Anniereidy1@btinternet.com

malcolmlong1@btinternet.com

www.assingtoncountrykitchen.com

www.thebarnassington.com

BOXTED METHODIST SILVER BAND

New players always welcome,
any age, any ability

(Rehearsal Wednesdays 7.30)

Contact: Mrs Petter

07803 935688

www.bmsb.co.uk

The Barn
Assington CO10 5LW

The Dog & Comb

Luxury Dog Grooming

Please phone Sarah
07860253017

WARNER LOG SUPPLIES LTD.

Suppliers of seasoned firewood

DICK WARNER

Tel: 01206 579881

Mobile: 07860 255326

JULES FLORIST

The Barn, The Street, CO10 5LW

Flowers for all occasions

Julie – 07979 676869
01787 211695
Email - Julieivory10@gmail.com

Boutiqueprint

Latex wide format printers & decals

PVC Banners **Posters**

Retail Signage **Wallpapers**

Vehicle Wraps **Vinyl Decal**

Tel: Assington 212379
Email: duncan@boutiqueprint.co.uk

VILLAGE DIARY 2020

One Saturday per month Mobile Library in Assington		The Shoulder of Mutton pub, 16.15 – 16.35
Wednesdays	Paper Kite Yoga	Village Hall, 7.30pm-9pm *Sophia Howard 313662 or 07968 165185*
Thursdays	Happy Sounds Community Choir	Village Hall, 6.00-7.45pm *Nettie Osman 07957 395780*
Mon & Wed	Art Classes	Village Hall, 10 - 3 *Belinda King – 210932, to go on the waiting list.*

March

1	10.30am Benefice Communion at **Bures**	*Bures St Mary's Church*
7	7.30pm Leavenheath Cinema: Downton Abbey (PG)	L'heath V Hall 01206262505
8	10.30am Holy Communion	Assington, St Edmund's Church
12	9.30 - 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group	Village Hall
14	9.30am - 1pm Long Melford's Farmers Market	Village Hall Long Melford
14	11.00am - 3pm SESAW £1 Sale	Newton Green Village Hall,
15	10.30am Morning Worship	Assington, St Edmund's Church
16	9.30 - 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group	Village Hall
22	10.00am - 1.30pm Lavenham's Farmers Market	Lavenham Village Hall
22	10.30 Family Communion	Assington, St Edmund's Church
27	9.30 - 11.00am Baby and Toddler Group	Village Hall
27	9.30am - 2pm Sudbury's Farmers Market	St Peter's Church Sudbury
29	10.30am Benefice Communion	*Little Cornard, All Saints Church*
30	Deadline for return of Neighbourhood Plan consultation	

The Assington News is published by The Assington Association – a charity largely supported by **donations,** for which we are always most grateful**,** *thank you so much* :
Bank Account no 01345159, sort code 30 98 31
Cheques can be payable to The Assington Association, c/o Bob Cowlin at Mill Farm, Bures Road, Assington, CO10 5LZ.

Editor: Bronwen Stacey, 01787 210354. Email: bronwenstacey@btinternet.com
All contributions are welcomed, whether stories, poems or personal news e.g. weddings or birth, though we reserve editorial discretion as to their acceptability for publication
Advertisements, personal or commercial, are accepted at rates which may be obtained from the treasurer, **Bob Cowlin, tel: 229955,** but we do not accept responsibility for any of the goods or services they may offer.

DEADLINE for COPY: 15th of the month prior to the month you wish your submission to be printed

NB please note the April edition is likely to be a little later than usual - don't panic(!!)

The Crown Stoke by Nayland, is our privately owned village Inn with a reputation for making everyone feel welcome. We simply have a passion for good service, food, wine and real ale.

That's enough of what we say this is what our critics say:

"Traditional dishes with a modern twist.....fresh, contemporary feel inside, this is a classy modern-day inn set in a pretty village within easy reach of Constable country" ***The Good Food Guide***

"the food at the crown is delectable.....and the wine list is dreamy" ***London Evening Standard***

""Old world character combined with modern brasserie style dining in lovely Stoke-by-Nayland...the wine list is excellent value for money" ***Fiona Duncan, Sunday Telegraph***

We look forward to welcoming you to Stoke-By-Nayland

TELEPHONE 01206 262001 **WEB** www.crowninn.net
EMAIL info@crowninn.net

THE CROWN

STOKE BY NAYLAND

2 Rosette Restaurant

3 Star Hotel